

it has the advantage of not going over high ground, the ups and 487
downs in it are trifling; hence it is a convenient road for those 494
whose way, from Kashmir, say, lies in the direction at Atak and
Peshāwar.

Not all of these roads are open to the English traveller (whose 486
journeyings involve special arrangements); the first three are
closed to him. The others have been open to Englishmen for six
months of the year. Quite lately new arrangements have been
made; I am not sure whether or no this restriction about time
has been taken off. There is now, I believe, a limitation of the
number of officers of the army who may go to Kashmir for their
leave; 200 at one time are allowed. The justification for this is
the great requisition for carriage that, as will be seen below,
each British traveller is sure to make.*

The road I have chosen, for ourselves to look into the par-
ticulars of it, is a combination of Nos. 3 and 4. We shall go from
Jummo in a north-westerly direction, so as to cut into the road
from Bhimbar at Rājāori, and from there onwards to Sirinagar.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY.

A few words before starting, as to certain specialties of travel- 484
ling in the Himalayas. 565

The natives of India are good travellers. The poor man, one
who gets his living by the use of his muscles, will make a bundle
of his extra clothes (if he has any), of his bedding and his cooking-
pots, and with that balanced on his head or slung over his shoulder,
will make a long march without asking anything of anyone, except
of the shopkeeper from whom he will buy his daily allowance of
flour or rice. The class above him, those who get, say, their living
by their pen, or by buying and selling, will surely have a pony for
the march, probably a quiet, useful animal, one that ambles along
at an easy pace; the bedding will be laid in folds on the saddle,
and the rest of the baggage carried on the pommel or else made

* Some useful information about those routes which are open to European tra-
vellers will be found in Dr. Ince's 'Kashmir Handbook' (published by Wyman
Brothers, Calcutta); and in Kashmir itself that book will be found very useful.